

REMARKS

Claims 2, 7-11, and 26-32 are pending herein.

1. Claims 26, 28-30, and 32-48 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Iijima et al (2001/0006042) in view of Vaidya et al (US 5076203). The rejection is respectfully traversed for the following reasons.

The claimed invention is drawn to an IBAD apparatus comprising a substrate block containing gaseous delivery channels. The claimed invention calls for the gaseous delivery channels to extend through the substrate block to openings at the surface of the substrate block. Particularly, the claimed invention calls for the openings to be equally spaced apart with respect to each other along a second direction perpendicular to the first direction, i.e., the path of the substrate. Claims 26 and 32 include the additional requirement that the openings form an array and are spaced apart along the first direction. Additionally, the claimed invention requires that the gas channels are hollow along the entire length of the respective gas channels.

While the PTO continues to rely upon Iijima et al. to allegedly teach the main features of the claimed invention, Iijima et al. fail to disclose the claimed gaseous coolant delivery channels. The PTO has apparently relied upon Vaidya et al. to allegedly overcome this deficiency.

Vaidya et al. fail to disclose or suggest gas channels that extend to openings equally spaced in a second direction at the surface of the substrate block and that are hollow along their entire length. Rather, Vaidya et al. disclose a substrate block with a porous material between the hollow gaseous delivery channels and the surface of the substrate block. In Fig. 9, the combination of the gas channel 63 and the porous material 61 could possibly be viewed as a gas channel extending to the surface. However, the combined gas channels of Fig. 9 are at least partially filled with porous material. While gasses can flow through the porous material of Vaidya, the pores on the surface of the substrate block are not equally spaced along the second direction, nor do they form an array. As such, Iijima et al. and Vaidya et al., alone or in combination, fail to disclose or even remotely suggest incorporation of hollow gas channels that extend to openings equally spaced along a second direction at the surface of the substrate block, let alone openings arranged in an array and spaced apart from each other along the first direction.

For at least the forgoing reasons in view of the amendments to the present claims, Applicants respectfully submit that the presently claimed invention would not have been anticipated by Iijima et al. in view of Vaidya et al. Accordingly, withdrawal of the 35 USC 103(a) rejection over Iijima et al. in view of Vaidya et al. is respectfully requested.

Applicant(s) respectfully submit that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to issue a Notice of Allowance for all pending claims.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action by the Applicants would be desirable for placing this application in even better condition for issue, the Examiner is requested to telephone Applicants' undersigned representative at the number listed below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 50-3797.

Respectfully submitted,

Date

1/25/08

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